



# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

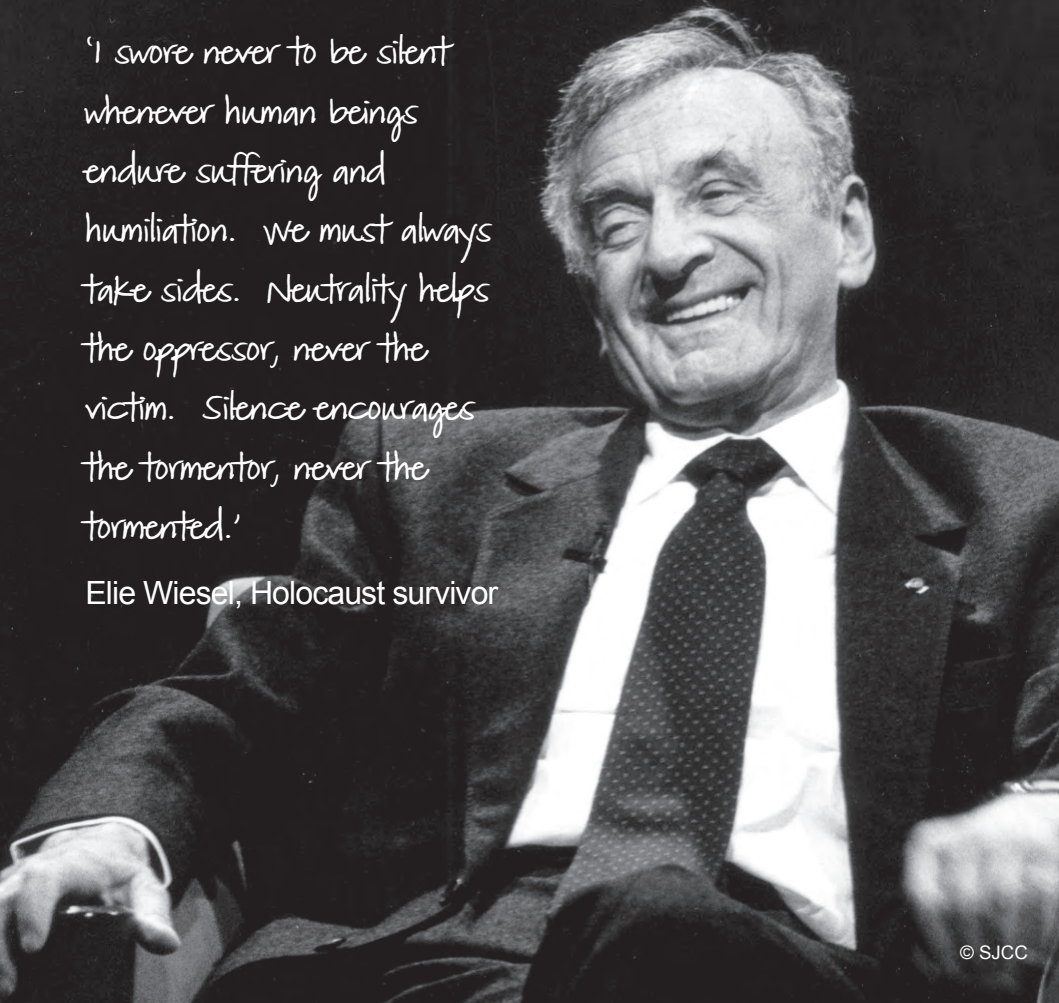
*Learning lessons from the past  
to create a safer, better future*



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

'I swore never to be silent  
whenever human beings  
endure suffering and  
humiliation. We must always  
take sides. Neutrality helps  
the oppressor, never the  
victim. Silence encourages  
the tormentor, never the  
tormented.'

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor



27 January is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. On Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) we honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experiences to inform our lives today.

27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On HMD you will be joining thousands of others who come together at activities all over the UK to remember the past and consider the part they can play in challenging hatred and creating a safer, better future.

## HOW DOES GENOCIDE HAPPEN?

Genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur or which are created to build the climate in which genocide can take place. Genocide does not just take place on its own, it is a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we learn from those who have experienced oppression during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides.

We each have an individual responsibility to ensure that differences are respected. We can all contribute towards creating a safer, better future.

*'It's not easy but I try to use my voice to speak out against hatred'*

Sabina Miller, survivor of the Holocaust



# THE TEN STAGES OF GENOCIDE

- 1 CLASSIFICATION** The differences between people are not respected. There's a division of 'us' and 'them', which can be carried out using stereotypes, or excluding people who are perceived to be different.
- 2 SYMBOLISATION** This is a visual manifestation of hatred. Jews in Nazi occupied Europe were forced to wear yellow stars to show that they were 'different'.
- 3 DISCRIMINATION** The dominant group denies civil rights or even citizenship to identified groups. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their German citizenship, made it illegal for them to do many jobs or to marry German non-Jews.
- 4 DEHUMANISATION** Those perceived as 'different' are treated with no form of human rights or personal dignity. During the Genocide in Rwanda, Tutsis were referred to as 'cockroaches'; the Nazis referred to Jews as 'vermin'.
- 5 ORGANISATION** Genocides are always planned. Regimes of hatred often train those who go on to carry out the destruction of a people.
- 6 POLARISATION** Propaganda begins to be spread by hate groups. The Nazis used the newspaper *Der Stürmer* to spread and incite messages of hate about Jewish people.
- 7 PREPARATION** Perpetrators plan the genocide. They often use euphemisms such as the Nazi's phrase 'The Final Solution' to cloak their intentions. They create fear of the victim group, building up armies and weapons.
- 8 PERSECUTION** Victims are identified because of their ethnicity or religion and death lists are drawn up. People are sometimes segregated into ghettos, deported or starved and property is often expropriated. Genocidal massacres begin.
- 9 EXTERMINATION** The hate group murders their identified victims in a deliberate and systematic campaign of violence. Millions of lives have been destroyed or changed beyond recognition through genocide.
- 10 DENIAL** The perpetrators or later generations deny the existence of any crime.

The entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi killing camps © Bill Hunt



*'Auschwitz was really a factory for killing, and human beings were used as fuel. I survived and promised myself, I will tell the world what happened.'*

Lily Ebert, Holocaust survivor

## THE HOLOCAUST 1941 - 1945

Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to annihilate all of Europe's Jews. This systematic and planned attempt to murder European Jewry is known as the Holocaust.

From the time they came to power in 1933, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution and legislation to deny human and civil rights to Jews. They used centuries of antisemitism as their foundation.

By 1941 Jews had been rounded up and forced to live in overcrowded ghettos. As part of the 'Final Solution', ghettos were liquidated and Jews were sent to camps, such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. At killing centres, those considered too old or weak to work – including women and children – were sent straight to the gas chambers. Those considered strong enough were set to work in appalling conditions.

By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jewish men, women and children had perished in ghettos, mass-shootings, in concentration camps and in extermination camps.

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/holocaust](http://hmd.org.uk/holocaust)**

Grundfarben



Abzeichen  
für  
Rückfällige



Strafkomp



Juden



Nazi concentration camp classification badges © USHMM



© Arnold-Liebster-Stiftung

'At school I was under more and more pressure to hail Hitler. But I refused because in my heart I could never honour a man in this way as if he were a god who could save people. I was arrested at the age of 12.'

Simone Arnold, who experienced persecution for being a Jehovah's Witness



## NAZI PERSECUTION 1933 - 1945

The Nazis persecuted people they believed threatened their ideal of a 'pure Aryan race' of Germans.

Nazis categorised people by race – and considered 'Aryan' people to be superior to others. Their belief in 'racial purity' and opposition to racial mixing was part-justification for their hatred of Jews, Gypsies (Romani), and black people who lived in Germany. Slavic people were dismissed as *Untermenschen* (sub-human). Extreme ideas associated with eugenics (the aim to improve the genetic composition of the population) were used to justify oppression of disabled people and gay people. The Nazis also targeted political opponents – primarily communists, trade unionists and social democrats – and people whose religious beliefs conflicted with Nazi ideology, such as Jehovah's Witnesses.

Hundreds of thousands of lives were destroyed or changed beyond recognition because of Nazi Persecution, and many groups did not receive acknowledgment of their suffering until years after 1945.

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/nazi-persecution](http://hmd.org.uk/nazi-persecution)**



ឯងចេះអ្នកប្រមូលសំបុត្រនេះទេ? ប្លែកណាស់

Prisoners at Tuol Sleng Prison © Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide



*'It's hard to tell you the story because it brings back the feeling of helplessness...people need to know in order to avoid genocide happening again'*

Var Ashe Houston,  
survivor of the Genocide in Cambodia

## GENOCIDE IN CAMBODIA 1975 - 1979

The fate of Cambodia shocked the world when the radical Communist Khmer Rouge, under their leader Pol Pot, seized power in April 1975. The Khmer Rouge imposed a programme to reconstruct Cambodia by creating 'Year Zero'.

The Khmer Rouge emptied town and cities, forcing men, women and children into the countryside to work as labourers on collective farms. The ill, disabled, old and very young were driven out, regardless of their physical condition. They targeted ethnic minority groups, including ethnic Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai. Religion was outlawed by the regime – half the Cham Muslim population was murdered, as were 8,000 Christians. Buddhism was also eliminated from the country.

Those considered a threat to this new peasant class – including doctors, lawyers, teachers and even those who wore glasses – were murdered. Deaths from execution, disease, exhaustion and starvation have been estimated at over two million. One Khmer Rouge slogan ran 'to spare you is no profit, to destroy you is no loss.'

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/cambodia](http://hmd.org.uk/cambodia)**

Names of people murdered at Kigali Memorial Centre, Rwanda

© Cellanr Creative Commons



*'They killed my big brother, my young brother, my sister, and my father and my mother. That is all my family. And around my family; my uncles, my cousins... lots, lots, I can't tell you how many.'*

Appolinaire Kageruka,  
survivor of the Genocide in Rwanda

## GENOCIDE IN RWANDA 1994

In 100 days in 1994 approximately one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered in Rwanda.

The Genocide took place following decades of tensions between Hutus and Tutsis, and a recent history of persecution and discrimination against Tutsis. On 6 April 1994 the plane carrying Rwanda's President was shot down. Extremist Hutu leaders accused Tutsis of killing the President, and Hutu civilians were told by radio and word of mouth that it was their duty to wipe out the Tutsis.

The genocide was carried out almost entirely by hand, and killing squads – the *Interahamwe* – were supported by the state, including politicians and local officials who assisted in rounding up victims and making suitable places available for slaughter.

Tutsi men, women, children and babies were killed in their thousands in schools and churches. Frequently the killers were people they knew – neighbours, workmates, former friends, sometimes even relatives through marriage.

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/rwanda](http://hmd.org.uk/rwanda)**



Coffins ready for burial in Potočari village © Richard Newell



*'The worst aspect of being kept in the Omarska Camp was the fact that the place was guarded by my former schoolmates, former neighbours, former policeman on whose protection I relied before the war, and even former teachers'.*

Kemal Pervanić, survivor of the Omarska Concentration Camp

## GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA 1995

In 1992, as Yugoslavia disintegrated, the Bosnian government declared independence. This was resisted by the Bosnian Serb population who saw their future as part of 'Greater Serbia'. In an attempt for political domination the Bosnian Serb forces conducted a campaign of terror. Muslims and Croats were forced from their homes, raped and detained in concentration camps such as that at Omarska, and many were murdered.

In July 1995, against the backdrop of the ongoing civil war, Bosnian Serb forces led by Ratko Mladić descended on the town of Srebrenica. The area had been declared a 'safe zone' by the United Nations but this did not deter the Bosnian Serb troops from forcing the women and children onto trucks and buses and separating out the men and boys to be killed.

Around 8,000 Muslim men, and boys over 13 years old, were killed in Srebrenica. Many were shot in fields whilst trying to escape. 1,500 were locked in a warehouse and sprayed with machine gun fire and grenades. Others were murdered in their thousands on farms, football fields and school playgrounds.

The massacre at Srebrenica remains the single largest mass murder in Europe since 1945.

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/bosnia](http://hmd.org.uk/bosnia)**



Um Ziefa burning village, Darfur © Brian Steidle



*'I am here, but I feel I am there.. I feel with them in Darfur because all my family are there. I don't want a lot of problem in my village in Darfur. I don't want war and I don't want shooting.'*

Hawa, survivor of the Genocide in Darfur



## GENOCIDE IN DARFUR 2003 – PRESENT

Darfur is a region in the west of Sudan. In 2003, a civil war began in the region between the sedentary population of farmers and the nomadic population, as a result of rising racial tensions.

In response to rebel attacks the Sudanese Government has supported the nomadic Arab militia - the *Janjaweed* - in attacking black African villagers in Darfur who were perceived to be supportive of the rebels. They have destroyed hundreds of villages and murdered thousands of people.

These atrocities have been condemned as genocide by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and governments around the world.

This civil war has led to the deaths of between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians; it is difficult for the international peacekeepers to keep accurate records. Up to 2.5 million people are still displaced in Darfur and neighbouring Chad.

**Find out more: [hmd.org.uk/darfur](http://hmd.org.uk/darfur)**



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY ACROSS THE UK

From Exeter to Aberdeen, Belfast to Brighton, Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January – is marked by thousands of people who come together in schools, workplaces and public spaces. By pausing together to reflect on the appalling events of the past, those who mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) commit to creating a safer, better future.

From candle lightings and peace walks, to tree plantings and poetry writing, HMD activities involve all members of the community. Through online engagement, thousands more help to make sure that HMD and its important messages reach our collective consciousness.

Whether activities are big or small, public or private, online or in person, they all play a vital role in the UK marking Holocaust Memorial Day. On 27 January, you can find out how you can play your part in learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future for all.

**Find out overleaf how to get involved.**

From top left – clockwise: ACM Gospel Choir sing our specially commissioned song for HMD 2013, a multi-faith service for HMD held at King's Lynn, Norfolk HMD 2011, East London Dance perform a dance choreographed for HMD 2012, a Holocaust survivor meets students from Central St Martin's, who created the 'I Will' art exhibition inspired by HMD 2012

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity, established by the Government, which promotes and supports HMD in the UK. HMDT encourages and inspires individuals and organisations across the UK to play their part in learning lessons from the past and creating a safer, better future.

You can

- organise your own HMD activity
- mark HMD online
- attend an HMD activity

To find out more visit **[hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk)**

**020 7785 7029**

**[enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk)**

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PO Box 61074, London, SE1P 5BX

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